

Case 3257

***Acmaeodera oaxacae* Fisher, 1949 and *Polycesta deserticola* Barr, 1974 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed precedence of the specific names over those of *Acmaeodera philippinensis* Obenberger, 1924 and *Polycesta aruensis* Obenberger, 1924 respectively**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3 and 81.2.3 of the Code, is to conserve the specific names *Acmaeodera oaxacae* Fisher, 1949 and *Polycesta deserticola* Barr, 1974 for two species of jewel beetle (family BUPRESTIDAE) by giving them precedence over their respective little-used and poorly defined senior synonyms: *Acmaeodera philippinensis* Obenberger, 1924 and *Polycesta aruensis* Obenberger, 1924. The subjective synonymy of *A. philippinensis* and *A. oaxacae* is published here for the first time.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; BUPRESTIDAE; *Acmaeodera oaxacae*; *Polycesta deserticola*; *Acmaeodera philippinensis*; *Polycesta aruensis*; jewel beetles.

1. Obenberger (1924) described two species of jewel beetle (family BUPRESTIDAE) from specimens in Prague and named them *Acmaeodera philippinensis* (p. 94) from 'Philippines' (an evidently wrong locality) and *Polycesta aruensis* (p. 100) from 'Ins. Aru' (Aru Island, Indonesia; also a wrong locality). Each species was represented by a single specimen. Later, both of these nominal species were listed in the Buprestidae I fascicle of the *Coleopterorum Catalogus* compiled by Obenberger (1926, pp. 42, 84).

2. Fisher (1949, p. 340) described *Acmaeodera oaxacae* from 'Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, Mexico', basing his name on a series of ten specimens. Additional notes and comments on the distribution and biology of this species have been made by Westcott et al. (1979, p. 176; 1990, p. 222) and Hespenheide (1996, p. 235). The species is common and is now known to be distributed in Mexico from Oaxaca to Sonora.

3. Barr (1974, p. 6) described *Polycesta deserticola* from a long series of specimens from a wide range in southern California and Arizona. The species was long known (since LeConte, 1860) in the U.S.A. as *P. velasco* auctorum and Barr's description of *P. deserticola* restricted *P. velasco* Gory & Laporte, 1838, which is in fact an unrelated species, to Mexico. Notes about distribution and biology of *P. deserticola*

have been made by Nelson (1980, p. 94), Cobos (1981, p. 63), Bellamy (1982, p. 360), Westcott (1991, p. 78) and Nelson et al. (1996, p. 190). *P. deserticola* is also known to occur in Mexican localities throughout Baja California and in Sonora.

4. Volkovitsh (1984, p. 559) published a discussion about *A. philippinensis* and concluded that the unique type specimen was mislabeled and belongs to the *A. bivulnera* Horn, 1894 species group (of which *A. oaxacae* is a member) that is only known from North America, in particular the southwestern United States and Mexico.

5. Bílý & Bellamy (1996, p. 182) synonymized *P. deserticola* under *P. aruensis* after noting that the handwritten label on the type specimen of *P. aruensis* had apparently been misread by Obenberger (1924, p. 100) who wrongly assumed its type locality to be Aru Island (see para. 1 above). Bílý & Bellamy (1996) interpreted 'Ariz' to mean Arizona rather than Aru Island.

6. One of us (C.L.B.) has compared the type specimens of *A. philippinensis* and *A. oaxacae* and finds them to be conspecific. This synonymy is published here for the first time.

7. As neither of the older names in these two synonymies is based on a specimen with correct locality data, and since neither of these specific names reflects the real distribution of these species or has had appreciable usage, we believe that the respective younger taxon names should be given precedence over the misleading senior names whenever the pairs of names are considered to be synonyms.

8. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power:
 - (a) to give the specific name *oaxacae* Fisher, 1949, as published in the binomen *Acmaeodera oaxacae*, precedence over the name *philippinensis* Obenberger, 1924, as published in the binomen *Acmaeodera philippinensis*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) to give the specific name *deserticola* Barr, 1974, as published in the binomen *Polycesta deserticola*, precedence over the name *aruensis* Obenberger, 1924, as published in the binomen *Polycesta aruensis*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *oaxacae* Fisher, 1949, as published in the binomen *Acmaeodera oaxacae*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *philippinensis* Obenberger, 1924, as published in the binomen *Acmaeodera philippinensis*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *deserticola* Barr, 1974, as published in the binomen *Polycesta deserticola*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *aruensis* Obenberger, 1924, as published in the binomen *Polycesta aruensis*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (c) *philippinensis* Obenberger, 1924, as published in the binomen *Acmaeodera philippinensis*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *oaxacae* Fisher, 1949, as published in the binomen *Acmaeodera oaxacae*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;

- (d) *aruensis* Obenberger, 1924, as published in the binomen *Polycesta aruensis*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *deserticola* Barr, 1974, as published in the binomen *Polycesta deserticola*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).